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Approved For Release 2003/08/12 : CIA-RDP82-00457R015400140005-5

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO.

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TOPIC Military Information from the Gardelengen - Stendal - Bittkau Area

25X1 EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT Mid-September to early October 1952

25X1 DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 20 November 1952

25X1 REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

REFERENCE COPY

DO NOT CIRCULATE

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1. During the period from mid-September to early October 1952, [] that one General Shterbina (fnu) belonged to the division in Stendal and that one General Shulgin (fnu) was also assigned to duty in Stendal.¹ An AAA unit with supply officer Major Grekhov (fnu) was determined in the new quarters in the former Fallschirmjaegerlager (parachutist camp) on Borstel airfield near Stendal.²

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2. The new troop quarters near Pockfitz near Mieste (M 53/Y 33) were almost completed at the beginning of October. Two 2-story and one 2-story buildings and garages were under construction. Lieutenant Colonel Yershov, commanding officer of the unit in Guesen (M 53/Y 32) was reassigned to the U.S.S.R. Major Vasilyev (fnu), chief of the Kech in Magdeburg, will leave for the U.S.S.R. in December or, at the latest, in March 1953. The Kech in Magdeburg []

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3. In September, seven engineer battalions were simultaneously assembled in the Bittkau (M 53/Y 33) engineer training camp. [] the Pioneer Kasernes in Gardelengen, Tangermuende and Ludwigslust were occupied only by small guard units during that time and prior to the summer months. One Colonel Gerasimov (fnu) was commandant of Camp Bittkau and officer in charge of training. Lieutenant Colonel Zidorkov (fnu) was supply officer in the camp, and Major Amanarenko (fnu) deputy supply officer there. Three of the seven engineer units in Camp Bittkau in September had their permanent post in Gardelengen, barracks installation on Bismarckstrasse, commander Lieutenant Colonel Zizoyev (fnu); Tangermuende, supply officer Major Zidorkov (fnu); and Ludwigslust.⁴

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4. The Soviet komandatura at Gardelengen (M 53/Y 44) Fliegerhorst and the infantry unit assigned to it has been considerably reinforced during the last weeks and, [] has reached almost regimental strength. Eighty factory new Volotov trucks arrived in early September. On 20 September, several Englishmen arrived at the Gardelengen komandatura. The purpose of their visit was not known.⁵

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1. [] Comment. General Shterbina, who has hitherto been unknown, presumably is in command of the 207th Ista Rifle Div. This assumption is supported by the fact that Major General Popov (fnu), who has been carried as division commander, was only mentioned once in this position in June 1949. Major General Shulgin was reported to have been in command of the 10th Iecz Div in January 1948. He

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was probably replaced in June 1950 at the latest as, at that time, Major General. A.A. Inauri had already been mentioned as new division commander. Lieutenant General Y.T. Cherevichenko who has hitherto been carried as corps commander of the LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps in Stendal was commander-in-chief of an army in World War II and, [redacted] carried as commander of the corps in February 1948. It can therefore be assumed that Major General Shulgin is the present commander of the corps concerned.

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2. [redacted] Comment. In mid-August 1952, the Fallschirmjaegerlager was reported to have been occupied by 400 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets of an unidentified unit. [redacted] On the basis of the present report, it is believed possible that the installation quarters the 953d AAA Bn (US) of the 207th Mtz Rifle Div which has not been confirmed in its quarters in Tangermuende since the fall of 1951.

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3. [redacted] Comment. The installation in Peckfitz is believed to be used as quarters for border guard details. No troops have been reported in Guesen. One Major Vasilyev is known as assistant to the chief of supply section of the Soviet komendatura in Magdeburg. [redacted] the 136th Gds Hvy Tank SP Regt of the Third Shock Army in Burg.

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4. [redacted] Comment. At the beginning of May 1952, it was reported that the Bittkau training area was occupied by seven engineer battalions, namely elements of the Third Shock Army, of the two motorized rifle corps and the four divisions of the Army. Gardelegen, Tangermuende and Ludwigslust are known as posts of engineer battalions of the LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps, the 207th Mtz Rifle Div and the 18th Mecz Div respectively. The officers are reported for the first time. Lieutenant Colonel Zizoyev presumably is supply officer of the 890th Indep Engr Bn of the LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps in Gardelegen.

5. [redacted] Comment. The infantry unit referred to probably is the 598th Mtz Rifle Regt of the 207th Mtz Rifle Div, headquarters and elements of which are assumed to have been stationed in Klotze since July 1952. [redacted] The reinforcement may have been due to the return from Klotze to Gardelegen of elements of the regiment or the arrival of recruits.

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